



## Policy on the Media's Use of Cameras and Electronic Recording Devices in U.S. Courthouses in the District of Minnesota

(Effective December 1, 2017)

The following policies concerning cameras and electronic recording devices apply to members of the media:

1. **Subject to inspection.** Any camera or electronic recording device brought into a U.S. Courthouse may be inspected by a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer.
2. **No photography, recording, broadcasting, or transmission allowed inside the courthouse, except as specified in paragraph 3.** Unless specifically authorized by the Chief Judge or by a judge presiding over a ceremonial court proceeding, no person may use a camera or other electronic recording device to photograph or record any court proceeding, courtroom, court office, or court staff member, or to broadcast or otherwise transmit any part of any court proceeding.
3. **Limited exception for using cameras or electronic recording devices in courthouse lobbies and U.S. Attorney's Office space.** Members of the media may use cameras or other electronic recording devices in courthouse lobbies and, with the permission of the U.S. Attorney, in the U.S. Attorney's Office space. The U.S. Marshal may limit the ability to use these devices within the courthouse lobbies by controlling where and when the media may use such devices in order to protect the ability of the public to ingress and egress the building and for other purposes related to court security.
4. **Storing cameras and electronic recording devices in news media rooms.** Members of the media who have applied for and obtained permission to use the news media rooms in the Minneapolis and St. Paul courthouse may store their cameras or other electronic recording devices in the news media rooms, but such equipment must be rendered inoperable while it is outside of the areas designated in paragraph 3.
5. **Ad hoc pouching of devices.** On days deemed necessary by a judge, all visitors to the courthouse (even those who do not plan to attend the hearing or trial that triggered the enhanced security measures) will be required to place their personal electronic devices into locked pouches for the duration of their visit. Visitors will be able to unlock the pouches as they leave the courthouse. There are exemptions allowing specific individuals to keep their personal electronic devices without placing them in locked pouches, including:



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- court staff (including volunteers and externs);
- attorneys who are members of the District's bar;
- attorneys who have made an appearance in a case being heard in that courthouse on that day;
- credentialed media;
- summoned and seated jurors;
- law-enforcement officers on official business;
- federal/GSA contractors;
- persons with biometric sensors; and
- students or invitees of pre-arranged training or activities.

To be exempted from placing personal electronic devices in a locked pouch, members of the media must **carry and display their court-issued media badge when arriving at security screening**. Members of the media unable to display their credentials will be treated the same as members of the general public and required to place all personal electronic devices in a locked pouch for the duration of their visit. The bench has implemented this policy in order to improve our courthouse security and protect the safety of judges, jurors, witnesses, victims, and other individuals involved in high-profile or sensitive proceedings.

**6. Violations of this Policy.** Any person who violates this Policy must be removed from a courtroom or courthouse by a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer. In addition, a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer may confiscate any electronic device from any person who violates paragraph 2 of this policy, provided that the Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer immediately presents the device and the alleged violator to the presiding judge or Chief Judge.